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Language and Technology: Incorporating English Pediatric Medical Terms into Igbo vocabulary

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Abstract

Advancement in medical practice continues to face challenges, particularly in the translation of pediatric terms within the Igbo language and culture. The translation of Igbo pediatric terms is complicated by linguistic, socio-cultural, educational, and technological factors. Ineffective communication between healthcare providers and patients underscores the need for this study. Language technology has increasingly been developed to address communication barriers; therefore, this research explored the integration of English pediatric medical terms into the Igbo language through electronic mechanisms. It highlighted the necessity, opportunities, and challenges associated with this process. The findings revealed that the development of a bilingual English–Igbo glossary of pediatric medical terms is essential for effective communication and improved treatment outcomes. The study also found that certain cultural beliefs and practices influence families' health-seeking behaviours, necessitating their consideration during translation into Igbo dialects. Furthermore, the research emphasized the need for standardization to ensure intelligibility and encouraged collaboration among healthcare professionals, linguists, and cultural experts to establish a dynamic pediatric terminology system that promotes effective communication while preserving cultural knowledge and practices. The major aim of the study was to provide an English–Igbo glossary of pediatric terms that bridges communication gaps, preserves the Igbo language, and strengthens cultural identity within Igbo-speaking communities. The methodology combined ethnographic and collaborative approaches. Researchers designed and administered interview schedules to selected professionals and native speakers to interpret and translate the terms. To address cultural misunderstandings in translation, Relevance Theory was adopted, while the tone-marking pattern of Green and Igwe (1963) was used, marking only low and down-step tones while leaving high tones unmarked.

Keywords: Language, translation, bilingual glossary pediatric terms and Igbo language.

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Introduction

Linguists and translators have invested considerable effort in breaking language barriers and facilitating the dissemination of scientific and technological knowledge across cultures. Despite these efforts, the translation of scientific and technical concepts into indigenous Nigerian languages remains challenging due to the absence of equivalent terminology for many specialized concepts. This challenge has significantly hindered effective communication and understanding within technical and professional fields. The scarcity of bilingual glossaries has further widened the gap in the translation of specialized terms from English into indigenous languages. Consequently, translating technical concepts from developed languages into developing languages often presents numerous linguistic and cultural complexities. These disparities have contributed to the limited development of technical vocabulary in the Igbo language, thereby restricting its application in scientific and professional communication.[2]

The translation of pediatric medical terminology from English into Igbo is particularly important in enhancing communication and understanding within healthcare settings, especially among Igbo-speaking communities in Nigeria. In an era characterized by globalization and rapid technological advancement, healthcare delivery increasingly requires accurate and culturally relevant medical terminology in indigenous languages. This study therefore emphasizes the need for translating, adapting, transferring, and implementing English pediatric terminology into the Igbo language. It also examines the linguistic, socio-cultural, educational, and technological challenges associated with this process.

The need for comprehensive terminological research in the Igbo language has become increasingly urgent. The absence of translated pediatric medical terminology has several adverse implications for healthcare delivery. One of the most significant consequences is ineffective communication between healthcare providers and patients, which often limits understanding of medical conditions and weakens healthcare-seeking behavior. Children benefit most from healthcare systems that are sensitive to linguistic and cultural realities. Therefore, addressing the deficiency of pediatric medical terminology in Igbo has the potential to improve healthcare communication and strengthen patient-provider relationships within Igbo-speaking communities.[3]

This study seeks to address these challenges by developing and standardizing pediatric medical terms in the Igbo language. The study further explores how translation can facilitate effective healthcare communication while preserving cultural identity and promoting indigenous language development. In achieving these goals, Relevance Theory provides a useful framework for understanding

[2]A. Mbah, "The Challenges of Scientific Translation in Nigeria," African Journal of Linguistics 4, no. 1 (1997): 45–56.
[3]C. Nwaeze, "A Study of Terminology Creation of Plant Science in Igbo," ANSU Journal of Language and Literary Studies 2, no. 1 (2020): 90–100.

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how meaning is interpreted and communicated across different linguistic and cultural contexts.[4]

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to:

1. Address the gap in pediatric medical terminology creation in the Igbo language.
2. Promote the integration of indigenous languages into scientific communication.
3. Contribute to the broader discourse in translation studies.
4. Facilitate wider understanding among pediatric healthcare personnel and the larger Igbo-speaking community.
5. Promote cultural identity within the context of globalization.

Conceptual Framework

Translation

Translation is fundamentally concerned with the transfer of meaning from one language to another while preserving the intention of the original author. It involves the re-expression of ideas encoded in a source language into a target language in such a way that communicative intent is maintained. Simpson describes translation from the perspective of mimesis as the faithful representation of an original text in another linguistic form, aimed at reproducing the same communicative effect in the target language.[5]

Expanding this view, Ezeoke emphasizes that translation involves exact representation, reformulation, and transfer of meaning across linguistic and cultural boundaries without distortion, whether through over-translation or under-translation.[6] This highlights the importance of fidelity in translation practice. Akpan views translation as a hermeneutic exercise concerned with the interpretation of texts, ideas, and cultural categories in order to achieve meaning.[7] Translation therefore goes beyond linguistic substitution and involves interpretative engagement with context and culture.

Onuoha, drawing from Robins, maintains that translation between languages is possible but not automatic.[8] It is often selective, focusing on key lexical items, concepts, or specialized vocabulary that require expression in the target language. Translation in this sense contributes to lexical expansion and enrichment.

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[4]Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson, Pragmatics, Modularity and Mind-Reading (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002), 254.
[5]E. Simpson, Translation Interventions (Lagos and Abuja: Interlingua Limited, 2007), 238.
[6]C. O. Ezeoke, "The Role of Theological Translation in Gospel Communication," in Translation and Language Studies in Nigeria: A Festschrift in Honor of Professor Amos AmechiIheanacho, ed. IhechiNkoro and ChidinmaOkegu (Enugu: RhyceKerex Publishers, 2018), 64.
[7]C. O. Akpan, "The Hermeneutical Approach to African Philosophy," in From Footmark to Handwork in African Philosophy, ed. Andrew Uduigwomen (Lagos: O.O. Publishers, 2002), 79.
[8]R. H. Robins, General Linguistics: An Introductory Survey, 3rd ed. (London: Longman, 1980), 28.

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Translation is also an instrument of intercultural communication. Liddicoat argues that modern translation theory increasingly understands translation as intercultural mediation rather than mere interlingual transfer[9]. This positions translation as a bridge between cultures as well as languages. Apatamohoba et al. emphasize that successful communication depends on shared background knowledge between communicators.[10] Therefore, translators must account for cultural and contextual knowledge to ensure meaning is properly conveyed. In contemporary discourse, translation is increasingly influenced by technology. Ogunsola notes that language technology integrates linguistics with computer science to enhance communication systems[11]. However, machine translation still faces challenges such as dialect variation, tone sensitivity, and cultural context, particularly in African languages like Igbo.

Language

Language is the primary medium of human communication and a shared social system among members of a community. Wardhaugh describes language as both a communal possession and an abstract system that structures human communication[12]. Language also shapes perception and worldview. Romaine argues that language influences how individuals categorize and interpret reality, and that no language offers a privileged access to objective truth[13]. Wardhaugh further explains that the availability of specialized vocabulary enhances communication efficiency and conceptual understanding[14]. This is particularly important in technical fields such as medicine, where lack of terminology limits effective communication.

Igbo Language

The Igbo language is spoken predominantly in southeastern Nigeria and belongs to the Niger-Congo language family. It is a tonal language, meaning that variations in pitch affect meaning significantly, making translation particularly complex[15]. Despite its richness, Igbo has experienced marginalization due to colonial influence and the dominance of English in formal education and professional settings. Nwaeze observes that this has resulted in significant gaps in technical and scientific vocabulary development[16].

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[9]Anthony J. Liddicoat, "Translation as Intercultural Mediation," Perspectives: Studies in Translatology

[10]K. C. Apatamohoba et al., "Translation as a Means of Intercultural Communication

[11]B. A. Ogunsola, "Language in Technology: Incorporating Indigenous Languages in Translation," in Translation and Language Studies in Nigeria, 250.

[12]Ronald Wardhaugh, An Introduction to Sociolinguistics, 6th ed. (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010)

[13]Suzanne Romaine, Communicating Gender (Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1999), 180.

[14]Wardhaugh, An Introduction to Sociolinguistics.

[15]M. M. Green and G. E. Igwe, A Descriptive Grammar of Igbo (1963).

[16]. C. Nwaeze, "A Study of Terminology Creation of Plant Science in Igbo," ANSU Journal of Language and Literary Studies 2, no. 1 (2020): 90–100.

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Pediatric Medicine

Pediatrics is a branch of medicine that focuses on the health and medical care of infants, children, and adolescents. It includes preventive care, diagnosis, and treatment of childhood diseases and developmental conditions. Effective communication in pediatric healthcare is essential for accurate diagnosis and treatment. The absence of Igbo equivalents for pediatric medical terminology creates barriers between healthcare providers and caregivers, especially in rural communities.

Bilingual Glossary

A bilingual glossary is a structured collection of equivalent terms in two languages used for reference in translation and professional communication. Mbah emphasizes that standardization of scientific terminology is essential for clarity and consistency in communication[17]. In pediatric medicine, bilingual glossaries enhance understanding between healthcare professionals and Igbo-speaking patients. They also support the development of indigenous language capacity in specialized domains.

Theoretical frame work

Relevance theory: This theory was developed by Dan-sperber and Deirdre Wilson in 1980s[3]. It emphasizes the ability of the human mind to maximize the relevance of the stimulus it produces. Naturally, there lots of information that comes across every human mind per day. And it cannot be possible for the mind to process of pay attention to all of them, hence its ability to select and process only those it deemed relevant information and filters out the irrelevant ones. Dan-sperder and Deirdre Wilson explain as a result constant selection pressure towards increasing efficiency the human cognitive system his developed in such a way that our perceptive mechanism tend automatically to activate potentially relevant assumption and out of inferential mechanism and spontaneously to process them in most productive way[3].

This theory seeks to explain that human mind tends to pick from the context only the information that might be useful for drawing conclusion. Human being try to develop the ability for accessing the right information stated for adequate conclusion and also the ability to combine the novel information with previous information in the mind to enable interpretation. One of the major interesting tenets of relevance theory is the ability of the human mind to merge contextual information with new information in order to achieve relevant conclusion. This theory is considered relevant to this research on translation here our intention in translating these terms is not merely to find drench equivalent between the two languages (Igbo and English). This theory will enable the researchers explore how meaning is derived and inferred in varied linguistic and cultural contexts, and also help the researcher resolve some ambiguities and polymeric words by accepting the most relevant translation based on the context and their

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knowledge of the target language through the help of this theory certain cultural misunderstanding or interpretation that are likely to arise in translation can be handled.

Research methodology

The researcher adopted the ethnographic approach which includes interview writing/recording and computer translation. This enabled the data to be contextualized. The ethnographic role of the participant observation was also used where the utterance of the translators were recorded. The language samples collected were observed and vetted by the professional and the some selected healthcare givers who are native of Igbo. The existing English pediatric terms from oxford medical dictionary and others were selected mostly those related to childhood illness and were translated in a way that they are culturally relevant and understandable. We also adopted the collaborative approach, feedback mechanism and the use of technology that incorporated local dialects and terminologies for enhanced accuracy. The terms were tone marked using Green and Igwe in which low tones (/) and down step tone (-) are marked and the high tones (\) were left unmarked[18].

Sociolinguistic and cultural considerations in computer-mediated translation

The researcher also integrated sociolinguistic insight to handle the dialectal diversity and some complexities of the Igbo language Okechukwu and Amadi emphasis the dynamic nature of Igbo language with multiple dialects and regional variations[17] So effective glossary building as the research intends to achieve must try to consider the dialectal differences to avoid alienating some group of speakers. Considerations were also given to some linguistic constructs peculiar to Igbo language such as proverbs and idiomatic expressions.

Cultural belief about illness and healing and other crucial factors were put into consideration. This approach helped the translator ensure that the glossary will not only communicate medical information rather helps to foster acceptance and trust in modern health care activities. This is the more reasons why researchers did not only rely on the computer interpretation only. Moreover, creativity and cultural relevance is needed to ensure that there is mutual understanding among the communities[18]

The role of community participation

The need to collaborate with local communities and stakeholders translating English pediatric term to Igbo language cannot be overemphasized. It is expedient to add that health care givers, traditional healers linguistic and parents play vital roles in Igbo pediatric glossary. They can provide the research with reasonable insight into how these medical terms can be understood and used even our daily conversation. This participating approach can ensure that the glossary is a replica of the real world language use and cultural context. This

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view is also supported by Nwachukwu and Ezenwa thereby encouraging a community driven strategies in health care communication[19].

Interdisciplinary collaboration; the research involved interdisciplinary collaboration. In translating pediatric medical terms into Igbo experts from linguistics, medical professionals, traditional healers, cultural anthropologist even educators were involved. This is expected to help provide, a scientifically accurate, linguistically sound and culturally sensitive glossary. And also help in addressing the multifaceted challenges of developing a bilingual glossary that will server both technical and practical purpose.

Advancing language development and healthcare integration

One of the major aims of this research is to promote the development of indigenous language and also integrate pediatric medical terms into particularly Igbo healthcare system. Indigenous language such as Igbo can enhance health care delivery by fostering better understanding and patient engagement[20]. Translating pediatric medical terms form English to Igbo cannot be said to be a linguistic activity alone; it is also a bid towards reducing health disparities. Igbo language is spoken in Nigerian by Igbo ethnic group in southeastern region of the country. It belongs to Niger-Congo language family. It is also a tone language which makes it unique also make its translation challenging in translating pediatric medical terms.

The differences in linguistic structure and cultural context between the two languages were a bit challenging. The lack of direct equivalent terms from English to Igbo language made the exercise a worrisome. Some of such problems were handled through transliterating and coinages. The challenge of preserving the original meaning as good translators were trained for also made the researcher activity cumbersome. Language experts and knowledgeable medical practitioners were engaged to assist reflect the cultural nuances and the original meaning of the translated terms.

Presentation of Data

A glossary of English -Igbo Pediatric Medical Terms

s/n	English	Definition	Igbo	Definition
1	Abdominal Pain – Female	Pain felt in the abdomen, often related to menstrual cycles, pelvic disorders, or gastrointestinal issues.	Ịhèmgbuafọ - nwanyị	Ịhèmgbuafọ - nwanyịnaemen'oge o na-ahu nsoya ma obumgbe o nwereihemgbun'okpu kpuukwuya ma o bukwa n' anuaruebenaechekwa gas.
2	Abdominal Pain – Male	Pain in the abdominal region, which can be caused by digestive issues, hernias, or	Ịhèmgbuafọ - Nwoke	Ịhèmgbuafọ - Nwokenkena=emekarin'ukwuehenwokenkeihena-

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		other abdominal conditions.		akpatakariyabuanuarundina-agbazinri ma buogbamkpuru ma bukwanuna o noduukwuehenweren sogbu.
3	ACL Injuries	Injuries to the anterior cruciate ligament in the knee, typically caused by sudden movements or sports.	ACL mmerụa hụ	Njikọihu cruciate adọwaraadọwanaìkpè rè. ACL bụanụahụna-ejikọtaòkpukpoapàtàụ kwụna shinbone, naìkpèrè. Ọtụtụmmerụahụ ACL na-emen'ogeụfọdụegwure gwudịka basketball, bọọlụ, ski natenis.
4	Back Pain	Discomfort or pain in the spine or surrounding muscles, often due to injury, poor posture, or degenerative conditions	Àzùmgbu	Ahụerughịàlànkeanụa hụna-emen'ebe ọ bụlan'ọkpụkpụazụ ma ọ bụazụ, siterenaoberemmerua hu ma obuanozighionudo ma obumgbeiheufoduna-emebin'onodu ha.
5	Bed Bug Bite	Bites from bed bugs that cause itching, redness, and sometimes swelling, typically appearing in a linear or clustered pattern	Chinchiit amadu	OtitaChinchinken'ebut aokeikookonkena-emekaanuaruchaaoba raobara ma o bumgbeufodumeeka ahu maduzaa azan a usoro ma obukponkekponke
6	Bee or Yellow Jacket Sting	Painful stings from bees or yellow jackets that can cause swelling, redness, and in severe cases, anaphylactic shock	Anụmà ọ bụòdòàjà àjààjàgba ramadu	Ihemgbuu ma obuiheufuuana-eweetemgbeanu ma o buOdoajaajagbaramad unkenwereikeibute ahu ozizaanaichaaoboraob ara ma nwekwaikeibuteAnap hyactic shock.
7	Capillary Malformat ions	Abnormal growth of blood vessels close to the skin, causing red or purple spots or patches, often called	obéréàrị aòbaraàk pụrụghịn keọma	Capillary malformation (CM) bụụdịànòmàlịvaskụla, nkebụànòmàlị ma ọ bụnsogbunkeusorovas

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		port-wine stains		kụla, ma navèins ma ọ bụakwara. A na-akpọkarị CM dịkantụpọmmanyaọdụ ụgbọmmiri. Ha dịkapàtchàkpụkpọahụ pìnịk, òbaraòbara ma ọ bụòdòòdò ma na-emen'ime 1 n'nwaàmụrụọhụrụ.
8	Cardiomyopathy	A disease of the heart muscle that impairs its ability to pump blood effectively, potentially leading to heart failure	Ọrịaòbi	Ọrịaènwètara ma ọ bụihenketànkeùruahụ òbi. Ọrịaènwètara ma ọ bụihenketànkeakwara òbi, ọnọdụ a na-emekaòbisieikeibunye òbaran'anụahụ, ma nweeikeibutenkụdaòbi.
9	Cavernous Malformations	Abnormal clusters of blood vessels, often found in the brain or spinal cord, which can cause bleeding or neurological issues	Cavernous àkpụrụghịnkeọma	Ọrịaụbụrụsèrébràlcàvèrnòusmàlforméshọn (CCM) bụnchịkọtàòbéreàrịaòbara (capillaries) n'imesistemụụjọnkeetitina-agbasawanyenankena-adịghịagbanweagbanwe. Na CCM, mgbidinke capillaries dịgirịgirịkarịaka ọ na-adị, na-adịchaghịnrò, ma nweeikeịwụpụ.
10	Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip	A condition where the hip joint does not form properly in infants, leading to instability and potential dislocation	Dysplasia mmepénke hip	Dysplasia mmepénke hip (DDH) bụọnọdụebenkwonkwo "bọọlụnaoghere" nke hip anaghịetolitenkeọmanaụmụọhụrụnaụmụaka. A na-akpọyamgbeụfọdụ dislocation nke hip, ma ọ bụ dysplasia hip. Njikọ hip na-ejikọtaòkpukpoapàtàụkwụ (femur) naòkpukpoukwu.

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11	Diabetes (type 2)	A chronic condition where the body becomes resistant to insulin or doesn't produce enough, leading to high blood sugar levels	Ọrịashùgà (ụdịabụọ)	Otùọrịana-ebuteòkéshùgàn'ọbara (glùkòòsòbaradịelu).
12	Diamond-Blackfan Anemia	A rare blood disorder that affects the bone marrow's ability to produce red blood cells, leading to anemia.	Diamond - Blackfan Anèmìà	Na anèmìà Diamond-Blackfan, ụmịọkpụkpụna-arụọrụnkeọma ma gharaimekamkpụrụnd ụòbaraùhiezuruezu, nkena-ebugaòxìjịnnaanụahụ. Nsonaazụụkọnkemkp ụrụndụòbaraùhie (anèmìà \ na-apụtakarịn'imeafọmbụ nkendụ.
13	Ear - Congestion	Blockage or a feeling of fullness in the ear, often caused by a cold, sinus infection, or fluid buildup in the middle ear	Ntị - Mkpọchi	Mkpokọta ma ọ bụmmetụtankejụụnanti, nkena-emeọtụtụmgbe site naoyi, ọrịa sinus, ma ọ bụidetuommirin'ogolo gonti.
14	Ear - Discharge	Fluid or pus draining from the ear, often indicating an infection, such as otitis media or swimmer's ear.	Ntị - Mwépù	Mmiri ma ọ bụàpụtachana-apụn'ntị, nkena-egosiọrịa, dịka otitis media ma ọ bụntịonyena-ese mmiri.
15	Ear - Pulling At or Rubbing	A common symptom in children, often indicating ear pain or discomfort due to infection, irritation, or teething	Ntị - Na-ádọkpù mà ọ bụna-étéìhè	Iheàmà a na-ahụkarịn'ụmụaka, nkena-egosinantịna-arịaahụhụ ma ọ bụna-enwenkụda, n'ihiọrịa, iwe, ma ọ bụimịpụtaezé.
16	GERD	A chronic condition where stomach acid frequently flows back into the esophagus, causing heartburn, regurgitation, and other symptoms	GERD	Ọrịamgbàrìnrinkeafọà sịd ma ọ bụ bile na-akpasụọkpọkọnri. Nke a bụọrịana-adịghịàlààlànkena-ememgbeàsịdafọ ma ọ bụ bile na-abanyen'imeọkpọkọnri wee kpasụmkpuchiahụiwe.

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				Àsịd reflux nanrekasiòbiihekarịrị ùgboroabụọn'izunwer eikeigosi GERD..
17	Gestational Hypertension	High blood pressure that develops during pregnancy, typically after 20 weeks, without protein in the urine, and may lead to preeclampsia.	Ọrịbaafọime	Ọrịamgbalịọbaraelun'imeafọimebụụdịọbaramgbalielun'imeafọime. Ọ na-apụtan'ihedịkapasentịisiinkeimeimeniile. Ụdịọbaramgbalieluọzọbụọbaramgbalieluna-adịghịàlààlà - ọbaramgbalielunkedịtupuafọimeamalite. Ọbaramgbalieluimenwereikeịmaliten'imepreeclampsia.
18	Gonadotropin-Independent Precocious Puberty	Early puberty in children caused by factors other than hormonal imbalances typically involving gonadotropins	Gonadotropin-Nnwereonwe Precocious ogeùtọ	Gonadotropin-Nnwereonwe Precocious ogeùtọbụihena-akpatannukwuọkwankehomonụmmekọahụ. Ndị a gụnyereàndrogensnwokenaèstrogensnwanyị. Mmekọahụ glands (òvàrìsnatéstès) anaghịeton'oge. Enwereikekpataraya site naetuto ma ọ bụutonaòvàrìs, téstès, ma ọ bụebendịọzọdịn'imeahụ.
19	Hand Fractures	Broken bones in the hand, often caused by trauma, falls, or accidents, requiring treatment such as splinting or surgery	MgbajiỌkpụkpụaka	Ọkpụkpụ aka na-emekarịbụmgbajinkemètàkàrpàlnkeìsì - ọkpụkpụdịn'akankena-akwadooberemkpịsịaka. Nke a bụnke a na-akpọkarị "njirijiọkpọọkpọ" na-agụnyeihendịahụ "òlù" nkeọkpụkpụ, na-esotenkwonkwonkwonkwoụkwụ..
20	Hand-Foot-and-Mouth	A contagious viral infection causing fever, mouth sores,	Ọrịa Aka-ụkwụna-Ọnụ-	ọrịana-egbochionweya, nkena-

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	Disease-Viral Rash	and a rash on the hands and feet, common in young children.	ỌrịaỌrịa	emetụtaụmụaka, nke Coxsackie virus A16 kpatara. Mmetụtankeọrịadịnro na-esonyereọnyaọnụnaọnyan'akanaụkwụ.
21	Hay Fever	An allergic reaction to pollen or other airborne allergens, causing symptoms like sneezing, runny nose, itchy eyes, and congestion	Ànyaọkụ	Ụdịnfụkasịahụn'ihi pollen nkeàhịhịa, osisi, naosisindịọzọ, nke e jimbufụtnkeakpụkpọa hụdịn'ìmínamgbeụfọdụnke conjunctiva (lee (ahụnrịanrịa) conjunctivitis). Ihemgbaàmànkeịzere, ịgbaọsọ ma ọ bụìmína-egbochi, naànyammiribụmaka.

Conclusion

The worry over the communication gap in healthcare delivery in Igbo community is to extent addressed through the English-Igbo bilingual glossary for pediatric medical diseases. Just as language is not only a tool for communication but also a means for cultural preservation and knowledge transfer. Therefore translating English pediatric terms to Igbo language requires a multidisciplinary approach that must include linguistic, professional, cultural sensitivity and medical experts. The lack of Igbo pediatric term in medical world has caused a lot of harm in children's treatment. The lack effective communication between healthcare providers and their patients has resulted to poor diagnosis, treatment, and poor health-seeking behavior. There is no gainsaying that any linguistically inclusive and culturally competent health care system benefits the children significantly.

The relevant theory as adopted in this research helped the researchers to underscore how meaning is easily interpreted and preserved and how these medical terms can be adapted to both cultural and linguistic realities of the Igbo communities. The Relevance Theory help to make sure that the translated term retain their relevant features with the same semantic and contextual capacity with their counter parts as the same time render than understandable to Igbo community. The benefits of English-Igbo glossary of pediatric term is quite in comparing. It goes beyond bridging the gap in health communication to promotes indigenous language development revitalization to integrating Igbo language technical and professional domains and in so doing improve the status of Igbo language as a functional and versatile language. We also conclude that the research was confronted some challenges such as diversity of Igbo dialects lack of Igbo equivalent of the terms and the uncommon nature of some sicknesses among the Igbo children and insecurity in southeastern part of Nigeria. Generally we conclude that the translation of the English-Igbo bilingual glossary for pediatric medical diseases can be seen as both a necessity and

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opportunity in this era. As the need for healthcare communication gap is addressed, the research also provides an opportunity for the preservation of Igbo language and cultural identity.

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